

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to certain informalities in claims 2, 10, 18 and 25. Claims 10 and 25 have been canceled, and the informalities in claims 2 and 18 have been corrected. Particularly, in claims 2 and 18, the line numbers carried over from the original set of claims have been struck out.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 6-27 as being unpatentable over Kasper '587 in view of Man US 2003/0109403. The Examiner's rejection is set forth in paragraph 6 of the detailed action. In summary, the Examiner feels that all aspects of the claims are shown in Kasper '587, but for the solid chemical element of those claims. The Examiner has concluded that the Man publication discloses such a solid chemical, and that it would be obvious to a person skilled in the art to provide the extractor of Kasper '587 with the solid chemical of the Man publication. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Notably, in the amended claims presented here, claims 1 and 12 are the only independent claims. Each of these claims now requires a solid chemical "consisting essentially of" a number of substances. In claim 1, the solid chemical consists essentially of a fragrance emitting substance, a bicarbonate substance, and an acid. In claim 12, the solid chemical consists essentially of a fragrance emitting substance, a bicarbonate substance, an acid, and a water-softener substance. In both claims 1 and 12, the solid chemical is placed in one of the first or second tanks and dissolves therein. Due to the use of the "consisting essentially of" language, the solid chemicals claimed in claims 1 and 12 do not include any cleaning substances, for example, detergents. However, in the Man publication, the fragrance emitting substance relied upon by the Examiner is only provided as part of a cleaning composition i.e., the fragrance emitting substance and the cleaning composition are not separate or separable. In the present invention, the solid chemical that includes the fragrance emitting substance is provided as a distinct addition separate from the detergent in the second tank. This is significant in that the present invention permits an end user to decide whether or not to employ

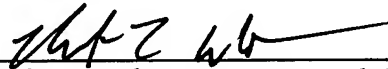
a fragrance emitting substance, and provides the end user with an easy means for incorporating a fragrance emitting substance into his or her use of a portable cleaning apparatus for cleaning a surface. In the combination offered by the Examiner, it would not be obvious to provide the solid chemical as now claimed. Rather, the combination of Kasper and Man would result in employing the cleaning composition of Man in the detergent tank 870 of Kasper. In such a combination, the fragrance would not be selectively added as a separate addition, when desired, but would always be present as part of the cleaning composition. The "consisting essentially of" language found in the claims precludes the presence of a cleaning composition as part of the solid chemical that provides the fragrance emitting substance. Thus, the combination cannot satisfy the presently pending claims.

All of the presently pending claims have also been rejected over Kasper '587 in view of Dente '325. Dente '325 discloses a fragrance composition that is uniformly deposited on the surface of a non-absorbent solid inorganic particular substrate. The resulting fragrance composition can be used to impart a fragrance to a second particular material, such as laundry detergents, automatic dishwasher detergents, animal litter, bath salts, carpet cleaners, rug and room deodorizers, etc. See Dente '325 at column 2, lines 15-20. Thus, in the combination cited by the Examiner, it would be obvious merely to modify the detergent compositions employed in accordance with Kasper '587 to include fragrance emitting substances per Dente '325. The combination would not provide a portable cleaning apparatus such as that now claimed, wherein the solid chemical that provides the fragrance emitting substance is separate and distinct from the cleaning composition, i.e., detergent. Again, the advantages to the presently claimed invention are readily apparent. An end user can select whether or not a fragrance substance is to be emitted during use of the portable cleaning apparatus, and the emission of a fragrance is independent of the use of the cleaning composition (detergent).

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in greater detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

In the event that a fee required for the filing of this document is missing or insufficient, the undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

Respectfully submitted,



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